

**Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Area of Potential Effect
For Planned Improvements to Reybold Road between Salem Church Road
And Sunset Church Road, Newcastle County, Delaware**

Nature of the Project

The project sponsor, Whitman, Requardt Associates, is under contract to the Delaware Department of Transportation to provide design services for an improvements project along Reybold Road. During the planning process it was determined that no survey had been conducted to determine if cultural resources might be present and impacted by the proposed construction. As is outlined in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office has recommended that professional consulting services be obtained to conduct Cultural Resource Studies of the project area.

A preliminary assessment of the study area determined that objectives of the proposed cultural resource study focus on the location and identification of any standing historic structures or archaeological resources within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the proposed project ROW.

The project area under consideration is located in Pencader Hundred, New Castle County, with an APE (area of potential effect) of 50 feet from the center line on either side of Reybold Road, between the intersections of Sunset Lane Road (Rt. 72) on the west and Salem Church Road on the east. This road lies mostly on an upland or gently sloping upland that is situated between Christiana River on the north, Muddy Run on the south and their confluence on the eastern end of the project area. Potential effects could consist of disturbance from improvements that include roadway widening, sidewalks or bike paths, drainage and/or utility construction, stormwater management, and construction staging. Reybold Road is approximately 5,535 feet or 1640 meters in length.

Some of the historic background research has been completed. Deed research for the project area has identified early land owners and an 1826 plat that includes part of the project area. Research also shows that prehistoric sites have previously been identified north of Reybold Road near the project area. One previously recorded standing structure, a schoolhouse, is located at the west end of project area on Route 72, while another recorded structure is no longer present. The project area is within one mile of the Cooches Bridge National Register District.

This management summary addresses the Phase I archaeological survey subsurface investigation conducted at the project area by MAAR Associates, Inc. between September 19, 2001 and September 28, 2001.

Methods of Data Acquisition

The field investigation consisted of standard surface and subsurface archaeological testing procedures. There were no previously cultivated areas that were not presently in pasture,

woodlands or underbrush, therefore surface collection procedures were only relevant in one area where a late nineteenth century dump was observed eroding from the bank of the highway road cut. A sample of material from that location was picked up and the provenience was recorded. Those items were retained in a labeled container.

In the overgrown areas, (wooded areas, wetlands), subsurface testing using standard shovel test pits (STPs) was the standard method utilized. Areas of high and low potential for prehistoric resources were defined, based on soil type, using the soil map for the project area. The sassafras soil types were considered to have a greater potential than the poorly drained and less sandy soils. The defined soils were investigated systematically using a maximum interval of 20 meters for low potential soils and 10 meter intervals for high potential soils. In addition, judgmental shovels tests, placed subsequent to the initial survey, bracketed individual shovel tests that contained cultural resources (when there was a question of the extent or nature of the resource). These tests were placed at a shorter 5 meter interval. Shovel test pits were standard size (40 cm by 40 cm).

All excavations were excavated into "culturally sterile" subsoil. Excavated soil matrices were screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth to insure standardized artifact recovery. All test pit locations were mapped on the project base map and stratigraphic profiles were recorded on logs. Soil descriptions given were of standard Munsell terminology. Recordation procedures, in addition to mapping, included field notes that described the methods, intervals, findings and constraints (two tests were inaccessible). Black and white and color slide photographs were also taken. On one historic site, an above ground foundation was mapped because it was within the APE.

For the initial survey, excavations were begun on the west end of Reybold Road. Two excavation teams were utilized, one on the north side of Reybold Road and one on the south side. To facilitate recording, the team south of the road used even numbers (2, 4, 6, etc.) and the north team used odd numbers for recording. During the initial survey, 139 STPs were excavated on the north side of Reybold Road, and 134 STPs on the south side of the road. There were 52 additional judgmental STPs, for a total of 325 STPs excavated during the survey.

Recovered artifacts were washed and individual levels within units, as well as the assemblage as a whole, were characterized in order to obtain an understanding of the relative age of individual levels of deposited soils, and to differentiate between soil levels representing "undisturbed" in place strata, versus "introduced fills". Artifacts will be catalogued and inventoried within the next week.

Survey Results and Data Description

Nine individual positive STPs were excavated on the north side of Reybold Road during the initial survey. There were twelve positive shovel tests on the south side of Reybold Road. Five of the latter were associated with a historic site located on east end of the project area that was initially observed based on the presence of a mortar and stone foundation within the APE. Several of the individual positive tests, located on both sides of the road, appear to be associated

with two to three upland wetland geological features sometimes referred to as "pingos" or small ponds that may be spring-heads or have soils that are poorly drained. On the basis of observed vegetation and "high water marks" these features appear to be pond-like most of the year. These type of features have been found to have a high probability for associated prehistoric cultural components that mostly date to the Archaic Period. In the case of this project area, there appear to be three and possibly six or seven of these geological features adjacent to the APE.

There were several "isolated" finds, some of which were associated with the features addressed above. STP 4 had a possible quartzite primary decortation flake. It was recovered in the front yard of a residence and is not associated with a wetland area. STP 118, with a fire-cracked rock, was recovered in a low probability area and could be associated with either prehistoric or historic activity.

STP's 28 and 36 both had single lithic artifacts and are located some distance apart in the trailer park south of Reybold Road. In the overall picture, they are both relative close to a wetland area north of the road, which has apparently associated prehistoric components to the east and west of the wetland pond. STP 28 has a utilized jasper flake, while STP 28 has a chert secondary flake. Bracket STPs did not identify other cultural items. Also associated with the geological feature is STP 27 on the north side of the road, which has a small chert flake and a piece of jasper debitage. STP 41, somewhat nearer the pond, had a small jasper decortation flake. The latter two tests were bracketed with negative tests. On the east side of the "pingo" is a slightly higher rise with a prehistoric site that could be associated with the latter feature as well as a second pond to the rear. This site was initially identified in STP 53, which had a crystal quartz flake and two pieces of fire-cracked rock. Bracketing STPs included several tests, of which three were also positive. A quartz flake was recovered in judgmental STP 31, which was five meters east of STP 53. Judgmental STP 33, located 10 meters north of STP 53, had a quartz biface fragment, while judgmental STP 29, just five meters north of STP 53, may have been located near a cultural feature, since there were seven possible fire-cracked rocks (hearth?) and a "sugar quartz" biface preform. The latter materials were recovered in Level 2, 18 cm to 44 cm below ground surface, well below plow zone.

A second prehistoric site (lithic reduction station) is located a little further east on the same upland rise, on the southeast side of the second wetland area, and overlooking another wetland area located to the southeast. A large piece of jasper debitage was initially identified in STP 73. Bracketing STPs identified three small pieces of jasper debitage in judgmental STP 37, located five meters west of STP 73 and judgmental STP 30, five meters north of STP 73, had a piece of quartz debitage.

There is a pasture both north and south of the road just east of the latter site. Historic materials (field scatter?) were identified in two tests north of the road and two other test south of the road. Adjoining tests STP 87 and 89, on the north side of the road, had a dark green bottle glass fragment and possible jasper debitage (STP 87) and a bottle glass fragment (STP 89). Bracketing tests in this horse pasture failed to identify other materials. On the south side of the road, STP 78, which had a nail fragment, was an isolated find. STP 90, which also had a nail and possible lithic materials, was bracketed by four tests. Three of these contained lithic materials

indicating that the southwest facing hilltop was a prehistoric lithic reduction site also. Judgmental STP 13, located five meters south of STP 90, had four or five small pieces of quartz, quartzite and jasper debitage. Judgmental STP 12, located five meters east of STP 90 had a fractured and battered cobble, as well as two pieces of jasper debitage, quartz debitage, two small fire-cracked rocks, a quartzite flake and a jasper flake. A possible jasper debitage and a battered quartz fragment were recovered in judgmental STP 14, five meters north of STP 90.

An isolated ceramic sherd was recovered in the front yard of an early twentieth century bungalow (STP 133) located on the north side of Reybold Road. This farmstead is associated with owner Barney Reybold on historic maps of the area. The small house is associated with a larger standing house (with barn and outbuildings) that was apparently constructed during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Historic background research shows this farm was purchased by Reybold in 1855. This complex will be addressed in the historic architectural survey.

There is a historic farmstead site located at the east end of the project area on the south side of Reybold Road. Postive STP 242, 244, 248, 250 and 252 contain historic materials associated with the farmstead that was present at this location. A 30 foot long section of mortar and stone foundation is located within 20 feet of the highway. A shovel test (STP 248) identified a buried mortar foundation for an outbuilding that appears to have been used as a garage or similar function based on recovered materials. It appears to have had a cobble stone floor. Probing indicates the buried wall extends at least 15 feet to the south, making this a 15 by 30 foot building. The owner of the above identified farm said that he remembered a standing barn on this farm. Pieces of agricultural equipment were also recovered in STP 252. The building foundation was mapped. Reconnaissance south of the project area identified a concrete well cover and there is also a very large area of stone rubble that may be the remains of a house or barn foundation. Historic research identified this site as the farm of James Ogram, who purchased the land from William Marshall Parkin in 1864 (on Beers map at this location in 1868) and the farm was later owned by James Curlett, who purchased it from a subsequent owner.

To the east of STP 252 is another small wetland. On the eastern edge of this feature, lithic materials were recovered in STP 258 that included quartz and jasper debitage. Judgmental STP 4 had a piece of fire-cracked rock and judgmental STP 3, located five meters north had a quartzite flake, a whiteware sherd and two pieces of clear bottle glass. On the north side of the road at STP 271 a piece of jasper debitage is also apparently associated with this wetland feature.

Interpretations

Two of the identified cultural resources are nineteenth century: the eroding trash dump located near the gas storage tank at the trailer park, south side of the road (with amethyst colored glass, a late nineteenth century medicine bottle top, and whiteware) and the James Ogram/James Curlett farmstead on the east side of the project area. The latter site was utilized well into the twentieth century.

There are four prehistoric sites and some isolated finds. Except for the site at STP 90, most appear to be associated with geological features consisting of ponds or wetland areas that are sometimes referred to as "pingos".

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